



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

since the installation of the second sulphur furnace on the *Omaha*. With the 2 furnaces working the time is reduced about one-half, and of course the volume of SO_2 poured into the vessel is much greater.

Respectfully,

D. A. CARMICHAEL,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

History of the most recent plague cases in San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 20, 1901.

SIR: In compliance with your letter of July 13, directing me to confirm by letter, after the definite decision, each diagnosis as made, giving the name of the person afflicted, the point whence he came to San Francisco, if a nonresident, and his address in the city, I have the honor to submit, herewith, the confirmations of 4 plague deaths reported in my telegrams of recent date.

Case 1.—Lee Ah Wah, aged 46 years; Chinese laborer; died July 5, in Wing Hi's undertaking establishment at 810 Sacramento street.

According to the statement of Wing Hi, who has known him for fifteen years, this man was a resident of and came direct from Bouldin Island, Cal., on July 1; repaired to his shop and died, not leaving the place until his death. He was very sick for five days, constantly complaining of severe pains, but refused to have a doctor called. There is another statement to the effect that Lee Ah Wah has been in Chinatown for a year at least; worked as a cook at a canning house, and lived at 714 Dupont street. It is claimed that he was a sufferer from rheumatism, and that his death was due to an overdose of Chinese medicine (Oe. P. Menth) taken for the alleviation of a headache. I have been unable to verify the latter story, and thought it probable that it was concocted by interested persons for the purpose of throwing doubt upon the origin of the disease. The complete necropsy was performed by Assistant Surgeon Currie on July 6. Characteristic lesions were found, namely, enlarged lymphatic glands, particularly prominent in the right inguino-femoral region; enlarged spleen, showing numerous small hemorrhages under the capsule. Smears made from glandular and splenic tissue showed numerous bacilli, some of which take the bipolar stain. Complete bacteriological examination of blood and tissues developed the bacillus pestis.

Case 2.—M, a Yoshiwara girl; age, 27 years; nativity, Japan; died July 9, after an illness of six days. She had been an inmate of a brothel, frequented mostly by Chinese, at 845 Washington street, for one year previously.

The post-mortem findings in these cases are characteristic, and need not be described in full, not here at least. There were lymphatic and splenic enlargements; a large mass of glands in the right femoral region showed hemorrhages and some distinct necrotic changes on section. Bacteriological investigation of blood taken antemortem, and blood and tissues taken post-mortem, showed distinctly the bacillus of pest.

Case 3.—S, a prostitute; aged 23 years; nativity, Japan; died July 9. She was an inmate of the same house, and was taken ill about the same time, with the same symptoms.

The Japanese physician in attendance states that she had lived at this number for at least five months. The necropsy made by Assistant Surgeon White, July 10, demonstrated the usual pathological conditions, which were in this case especially typical of the disease. Abun-

dant bipolar organisms were shown by smears; tube cultures were made, and the inoculation routine carried out to a final test. Pest bacilli were isolated in pure culture in this as well as the other cases.

Case 4.—F, a prostitute; age, 24 years; nativity, Japan; died July 12, after an illness of three days. This girl roomed at the same Yoshiwara house, 845 Washington street, up to July 8, but became alarmed over the illness of her companions and the visits of the health officers, and moved to 526 Pine street. As soon as apprehended there she was returned to the Washington street brothel, which had been by this time put under quarantine surveillance.

The pathological findings in this case were nearly identical with those recorded above; the bacteriological findings were the same. It will be observed that every opportunity was offered by the Japanese cases for the study of the disease during life. From them the bacteriologists of this office obtained blood specimens, and were enabled thereby to demonstrate suspicious organisms before death. The Japanese national traits will account for the granting of such courtesies, as they are less secretive and have greater confidence in occidental medical science than the Chinese. Cases which occur among the latter are seldom, if ever, seen during life, and are only shown to us after death through the workings of stringent municipal regulations.

Doctors Kellogg and Ryfkogel, experts of the city health office, pronounced these cases plague from the clinical symptoms alone, and so reported to their authorities. Other clinicians present, including 2 gentlemen who have had considerable experience with the phases of the disease in other countries, were of the same opinion. In all, there have been 4 cases among these Japanese prostitutes. U, the fourth girl, will recover; and will be, I believe, the first case of plague known to have recovered in San Francisco.

Respectfully,

RUPERT BLUE,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report of investigation of smallpox near Martinsburg, W. Va.

BALTIMORE, MD., July 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that in compliance with Bureau order of July 20, 1901, directing me to proceed to Martinsburg, W. Va., confer and advise with Dr. S. N. Myers, president of the State board of health, as to the smallpox situation in that vicinity, I arrived in Martinsburg at 3.30 a. m., July 21, 1901, called on Dr. Myers between the hours of 9 and 10 o'clock the same morning, and visited with him the cases of eruptive diseases suspected of being variola.

There were 5 adults and 8 children, all colored, in strict quarantine, under guard, in a 2 story frame building located about 1 mile from Martinsburg, sitting back about 300 yards from the road and in full view of it, across a meadow, making enforced isolation of the suspects comparatively easy.

When examined by me on July 21, 2 of these patients, adults, showed characteristic markings of variola in discrete form. One of these cases was convalescent after three weeks duration while the second and more recently developed case was perhaps in the latter part of the second week of the disease, in a condition to warrant a favorable prognosis. The first case to develop was thought to have been contracted after exposure to fomites of a child relative then visiting in the house from Charlestown, W. Va., at which place it had passed through a mild attack of what was thought to be variola.